

Exhibit No. 3

Date 2-4-15

AARP Montana T 866-295-7278
30 W. 14th Street F 406-441-2225
Suite 301 TTY 877-434-7598
Helena, MT 59601

SB 198

www.aarp.org/mt



February 4th, 2015

To: Senate Administration Committee

From: Jane Amdahl, AARP Montana Volunteer Advocate

Re: Support SB 198, "Revise longevity laws for state employees"

Madam

~~Ms. Chairman~~ and members of the committee, for the record my name is Jane Amdahl, a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana. I am also a retired state employee. We urge this committee to approve Senate Bill 180 so that state employees who experience a break in service due to the need to care for a family member will no longer lose longevity benefits.

Over 100,000 Montanans everyday serve as caregivers to adult family members. Not all these people need to leave the job force to provide this care, but some do. Without this help many people could not stay in their homes or live independently. Without family caregivers our long-term care system would be overwhelmed and simply would not work.

Our workplace policies need to encourage and reward family caregiving which SB 198 does. This change in longevity policy is one meaningful step towards making our workplaces more supportive of family caregivers who are state employees. The value of family caregiving is worth millions but rarely compensated. SB 198 is one small way to acknowledge the value of taking time away from work to provide care to a loved one.

AARP urges this committee to give a do pass on SB 198. Thank you.